

OCT 17 2008

Application No.: 10/786217  
Docket No.: CL1375USCNT

Page 4

Amendments to ClaimsIn the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising one or more polyamides, with about 1%-50% by volume of calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide having an aspect ratio of less than about 5, the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide having an average equivalent spherical diameter in the range of about 0.1 to less than about 3.5 micrometers, and having a coating consisting essentially of a saturated fatty acids, a salt thereof, or a mixture thereof, at a concentration of at least 0.5% by weight of the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide.
2. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the composition comprises about 50-30% by volume of the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide.
3. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the composition comprises about 10-20% by volume of the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide.
4. (Original) The composition of according to Claim 1 wherein the average equivalent spherical diameter is about 0.5 to about 2 micrometers.
5. ((Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the concentration of saturated fatty acids, salt thereof, or mixture thereof is in the range of about 0.5-4%.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented). The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the saturated fatty acid is stearic acid.
- 8.(Currently Amended) The composition according to Claim 4 wherein the saturated fatty acid is stearic acid at a concentration of about 2% by weight on the weight of the filler- calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) A shaped article comprising the composition according to Claim 1.
11. (Currently amended) A process for forming a composition comprising the steps of:

Application No.: 10/786217  
Docket No.: CL1375USCNT

Page 5

(a) combining one or more polyamides with calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide having an aspect ratio of less than 5, the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide having an average equivalent spherical diameter in the range of about 0.1 to less than about 3.5 micrometers, and [a] having a coating consisting essentially of saturated fatty acid, salt thereof, or mixture thereof, at a concentration of at least about 0.5% by weight of the mineral filler, the filler calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide, the filler calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide and the nylon one or more polyamides being combined at a weight ratio given by the formula:

$$W_f/W_p = [VF/(1-VF)] \cdot D_f/D_p$$

where  $W_f$  is the weight of the filler calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide,  $W_p$  is the weight of the one or more polyamides,  $VF$  is the desired volume fraction of filler calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide, in the range of about 0.01-0.5,  $D_f$  is the density of the filler calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide, and  $D_p$  is the density of the one or more polyamides;

- (b) heating the combination to a temperature above the melting point of the one or more polyamides to form a molten composition;
- (c) mixing the molten composition to provide a homogeneous melt; and,
- (d) cooling the molten composition.

12. (Original) The process of Claim 11 wherein  $VF$  is in the range of about 0.10-0.20.

13. (Original) the process of Claim 11 wherein the average equivalent spherical diameter is about 0.5-2 micrometers.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 11 wherein the saturated fatty acid is stearic acid at a concentration of about 2% by weight on the weight of the calcium carbonate or titanium dioxide.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)